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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/720,138 | 11/25/2003 | Mei-Ling Liu | LIUM3007/EM | 4425 |
| 23364 | 7590 | 03/14/2006 | EXAMINER | |
| BACON & THOMAS, PLLC | | | MANAF, ABDUL | |
| 625 SLATERS LANE | | | | |
| FOURTH FLOOR | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | 3635 | |

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/720,138 | LIU, MEI-LING | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Abdul Manaf | 3635 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Reference Drawings, Pages 1-2.</u> |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent No. 6,711,869 to Tychsen in view of the U.S. Patent No. 6,546,687 to Oh et al.

In regard to claim 1, Tychsen discloses a parquet block with joints having four sides (Figs. 1, 2); a longitudinal notch having a short upper side and a long lower side with a distal edge and defined at one of the sides near the upper side edge of the parquet block; a longitudinal tongue having a short upper side and a long lower side with a proximal edge and defined on a side opposite to the longitudinal notch of the parquet block to be inserted into the longitudinal notch in an adjacent parquet block (see

attached Tychsen's drawings Fig. 1 (rotated at 180°) with related features indicated by the examiner).

However, Tychsen does not disclose two transverse tongues having a width and defined respectively on the sides different from the longitudinal notch and the longitudinal tongue; and two transverse grooves having a width equal to the width of the transverse tongues and defined respectively beside the transverse tongues.

Oh discloses at least two transverse tongues (Fig. 1: 3) having a width and defined respectively on the sides different from the longitudinal notch and the longitudinal tongue; and two transverse grooves having a width equal to the width of the transverse tongues and defined respectively beside the transverse tongues (see attached Oh's drawings Figs. 1, 2 with related features indicated by the examiner).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Tychsen by having at least two transverse tongues and grooves both having the same width and defined respectively on the sides different from the longitudinal notch and the longitudinal tongue for an easier installation and still having equal and opposite normal and angular forces exerted on the opposite sides of a parquet block.

In regard to claim 2, Tychsen discloses a parquet block comprising a longitudinal notch further comprising an upward protrusion formed on the distal edge of the longitudinal notch, and the longitudinal tongue further comprises a longitudinal detent defined on the proximal edge of the long lower side of the longitudinal tongue (see

attached Tychsen's drawings Fig. 1 (rotated at 180°) with related features indicated by the examiner).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abdul Manaf whose telephone number is 571-272-1476. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on (571) 272-6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AM A.M.

03/03/2006



Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

U.S. Patent

Mar. 30, 2004

US 6,711,869 B2

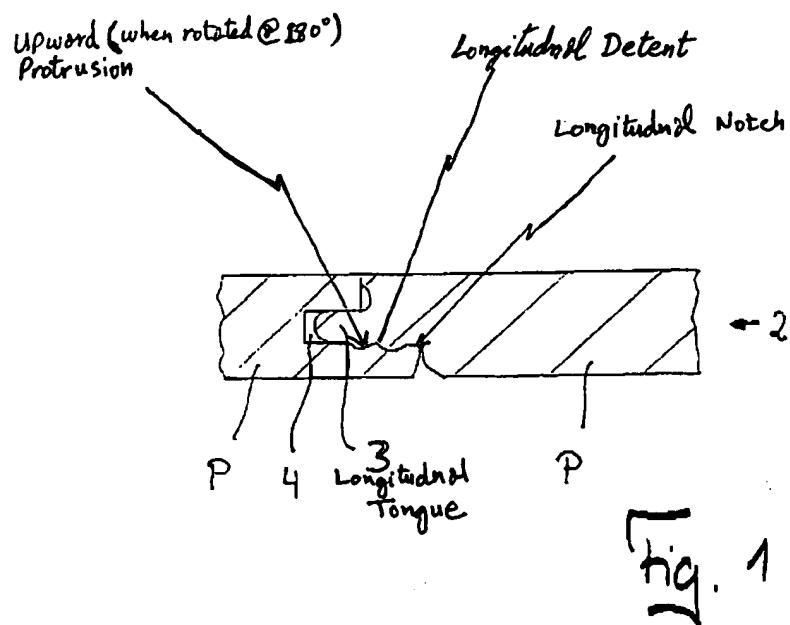


Fig. 1

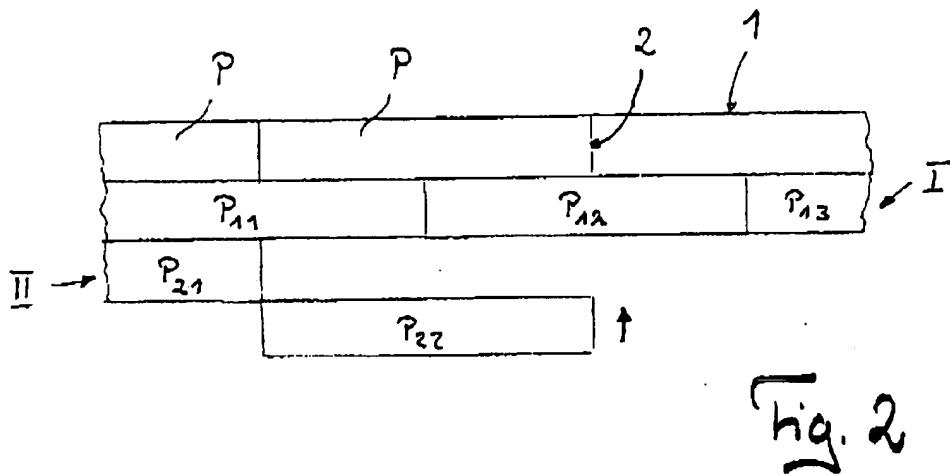


Fig. 2

U.S. Patent

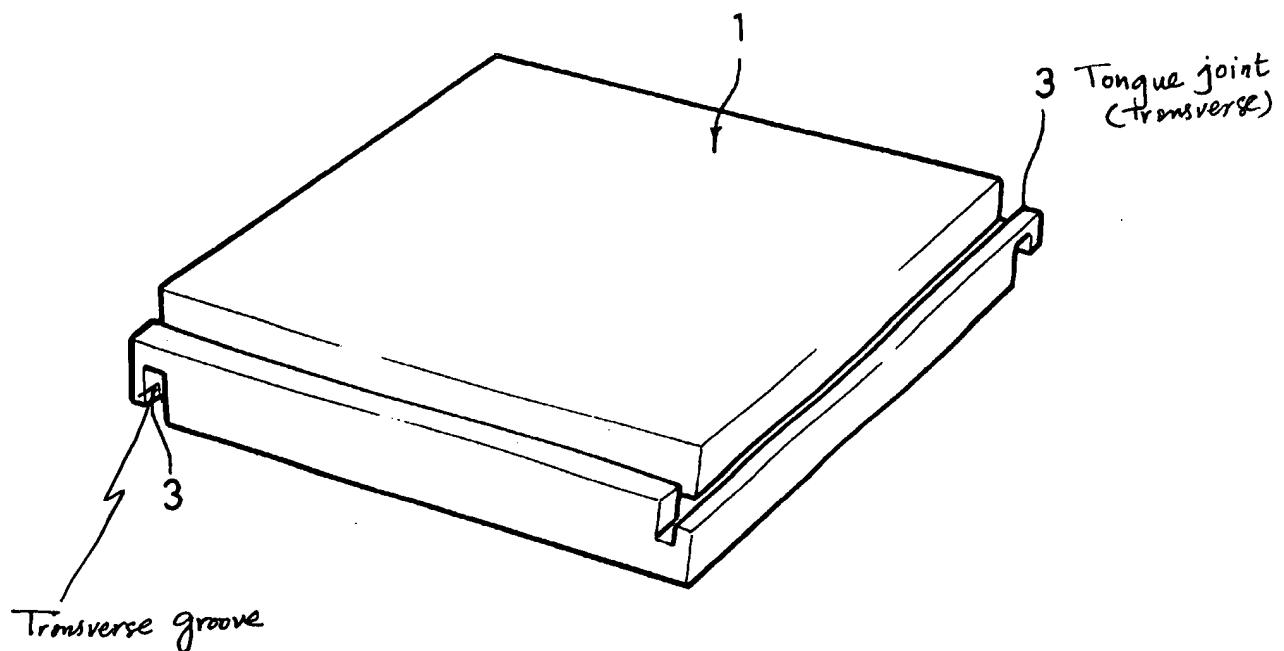
Apr. 15, 2003

Sheet 1 of 6

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FIG. 1

Panel (Parquet Block)

**FIG. 2**